DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) provides an array of services to help citizens with disabilities prepare for, obtain and maintain employment and self-sufficiency. To be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, a person must 1) have a physical or mental disability that constitutes or results in a substantial barrier to employment, and 2) can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services, and 3) want to work. Counselors with masters degrees in vocational rehabilitation work with persons who have disabilities in job exploration, job training and placement.

Customers who meet the federal eligibility requirements agree on a job training plan. The services each individual receives are based on each person's informed choice consistent with his/her interests, abilities and needs. Examples of rehabilitation services include: job training and education, prostheses and other medical services, support services such as interpreters, readers, and transportation accommodations/assistive technology, job coaches, tools, equipment, licenses, job-seeking skills training, and job placement assistance. Services also include assistances with job-in-jeopardy for persons with disabilities and to employers needing ergonomic information and education in retaining employees.

MRS operates Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI), a post-secondary residential vocational trade-training program in Plainwell.

Consistent with federal rules and the 1998 Workforce Investment Act, MRS actively works with all the Michigan Works Workforce Development Boards. MRS has a seat on each local board and has aggressively pursued collocation of staff to assure close communication and collaboration.

Grant funds for job training and placement are annually awarded to community rehabilitation organizations.

LEGAL BASIS

- Michigan Codified law, Miscellaneous Statutes, 395.81 through 395.90. Specific program authorization: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 822 of 1984.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Program is a state and federal program, authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1964 (P.A. 232) as referenced in Michigan Codified law, Miscellaneous Statutes, 395.81 through 395.90. The federal enabling legislation is the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Compliance with EDGAR/OMB Circulars and policy is required.
- JET: IDG from the Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

SOURCES OF FINANCING

The primary source of funding for MRS is the United States Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation Title I grant, which requires a 21.3 percent match.

DED-OSERS, Rehabilitation Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, State Grants, Title I

DED-OSERS Supported Employment State General Fund/General Purpose

Penalty and Interest Account

Michigan Department of Human Services GF/GP IDG (JET)

Restricted Funds

Private Gifts, Bequests, Donations

Second Injury Fund

Local Vocational Rehabilitation Match

Rehabilitation Services Fees

HHS-SSA, Supplemental Security Income

Vocational Rehabilitation Program:

LEGAL BASIS

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program is a state and federal program. The federal enabling legislation is the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Compliance with EDGAR/OMB Circulars and policy is required. In Michigan, it is authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1964 (P.A. 232) as referenced in Michigan Codified law, Miscellaneous Statutes, 395.81 through 395.90.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

In FY 2008, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth Rehabilitation Services provided counseling, physical and mental restoration services, job placement and other support to more than 48,260 citizens with disabilities in over 100 locations across the state. Of these, 7,543 people were successfully rehabilitated and employed.

19 community rehabilitation organization grants totaling \$757,208 were issued in FY 2008.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

Jobs Education Training (Pilot)

Background Information

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 which reauthorized Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to states was passed by Congress and signed into law in February 2006. This Act requires all states to engage more TANF funded persons in productive work activities leading to self-sufficiency or risk a significant financial penalty. Under this law, Michigan's Department of Human Services (DHS) was required to reach a 50% reduction of TANF consumers. Michigan has the potential to lose \$150 million in GF/GP funding in FY 2008 if the state does not reach the federal mandate.

Responding to this legislation, Governor Granholm developed and initiated the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) program, to assist welfare applicants/recipients and low-wage workers obtain employment. Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) along with DHS and Michigan Works Agencies (MWA) provide a blended approach to helping TANF recipients become self-sufficient and permanently employed.

MRS counselors provide consultation services to DHS and MWA about barriers and opportunities relative to the employment of persons with disabilities. Consultations are provided to specific persons referred by DHS who have an identified or alleged disability. DHS and MWA also refer appropriate TANF recipients to MRS to apply for our services.

MRS provides TANF recipients who are eligible for our program with employment related services including vocational counseling, assistive technology, training and other supportive services to obtain or retain employment. MRS is reimbursed for JET expenditures through an interdepartmental agreement with DHS.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS:

Michigan Department of Human Services provided substantiation of FY 2007 JET savings to the state budget office on January 3, 2008. The document included the following paragraph:

"The MRS consultation and service processes are part of JET and only available to JET sites. This process has significantly decreased the number of clients exempted from work activities due to incapacity and increased the number of FIP clients with disabilities involved in specialized vocational services. Expansion of this important resource is dependent upon expansion of JET to the remainder of the state."

In fiscal year 2008 the program was implemented state-wide. 2,583 persons received consultation services. 913 persons became customers of MRS and 106 customers achieved employment.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

Personal Assistance Services

PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Michigan Personal Assistance Services program for employment, now generally called the Personal Assistance Services Reimbursement for Employment Program (PASREP), enables individuals with significant disabilities pay for personal assistance needed to work. A grant is awarded to the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living to administer the statewide program with assistance from other Centers for Independent Living across the state. Individuals with disabilities must meet five criteria for this reimbursement program: (1) have a significant disability which requires personal assistance to perform routine daily living activities; (2) be employed or self-employed, or have a bona fide offer of employment for an average of at least 24 hours per week, earning at least minimum wage; (3) require no less than 5 hours per week of personal services to begin or maintain employment; (4) have the ability to employ and manage personal assistants, maintain records, and file timely reports; and (5) be unable to cover the full cost of personal assistance from income and other resources*.

*Program participants must pay 15% of their gross income above 300% of current federal poverty level, toward the cost of personal assistance services.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Program effectiveness is reflected in the wages grantees earn, the taxes paid, the increased independence grantees enjoy and the community contributions made. During FY 2008, services were provided to 34 persons each month; 37 individuals with significant disabilities received services. Approximately 38 individuals will receive grants to assist in obtaining and maintaining employment during FY 2009.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

VR Independent Living Grants

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Vocational Rehabilitation Grants are awarded for consumer-directed, community-based services, provided by local Centers for Independent Living (CILs). The CILs collaborate with Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth, Rehabilitation Services offices to achieve mutual program objectives. Grantees facilitate or directly provide, vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities maximizing opportunities for employment and career advancement. The federal grant has a 21.3 percent match requirement.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Program is a state and federal program, authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1964 (P.A. 232) as referenced in Michigan Codified law, Miscellaneous Statutes, 395.81 through 395.90. The federal enabling legislation is the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Compliance with EDGAR/OMB Circulars and policy is required.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Provision of Independent Living (IL) services in conjunction with the Michigan Vocational Rehabilitation program is an effective means of improving employment outcomes for persons with disabilities. Title I Independent Living grants support collaborative local arrangements for the provision of services and supports, to achieve vocational goals. Projects specify number of customers and/or units of services to be provided, in accordance with the *State Plan for Independent Living* (SPIL), developed jointly by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth Rehabilitation Services and Commission for the Blind. Progress is related to the specific provisions approved for each grant. A total of more than 4,500 individuals with disabilities and employers were served under these grants during FY 2008; it is projected more than 5,200 will be served during FY 2009.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

MICHIGAN CAREER AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Academic Year 2008

Michigan Rehabilitation Services includes Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI), which is a post-secondary residential facility located in Plainwell, Michigan. The facility is located on the shores of Pine Lake. MCTI provides specialized vocational training and comprehensive rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. MCTI is one of eight comprehensive rehabilitation facilities in the United States.

The dormitories on campus house approximately 350 students. Dormitory advisors are on duty 24 hours a day seven days a week to assist students manage and learn to live independently and safely. Family housing is also available for students; 10 two-bedroom units, 10 three-bedroom units and a day care center.

Frequently the students at MCTI are away from their families for the first time. Students are able to experience recreational and leisure activities including library, swimming and boating, bowling and similar life skills necessary for living independently. MCTI has three elevators for accessibility. Fire and security systems are appropriate to persons who are deaf and have physical mobility limitations.

MCTI's water is provided through two wells and water tower; there is an independent sewage system. Emergency backup power for water pumps, dormitory light, heat, and kitchen is provided through facility generators.

Services at MCTI include:

- A one-week vocational "camp" for high school students, which served 121 students in summer 2008
- Career Assessment Services which provides vocational evaluation
- Enhanced basic skills training required for entrance into selected trades. Services include reading and math and other employability skills classes.
- Vocational Trade Training Automotive Technology, Cabinetmaking/Millwork, Certified Nurse Assistant, Culinary Arts, Custodial,
 Customer Service, Electronics, Graphic Communications, Grounds Maintenance and Landscaping, Machine Technology, Office Automation and Retail Marketing
- Video conferencing and vocational training via distance learning technology. MCTI connects to Battle Creek Learning Center, Lansing Learning Center, and Shiawassee Learning Center
- Remedial and adult education
- Rehabilitation support services (i.e., substance abuse counseling, psychological services, medical services, vocational counseling, therapeutic recreation services, employability skills training)
- Job Placement Services

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

MCTI received full three-year accreditation in 2008 by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). MCTI also received full five-year accreditation by the North Central Association (NCA) in 2005, resulting in full access to all Title IV programs. These stringent accreditation processes evaluate curriculums, goals and school improvement plans, and staff credentials.

MCTI Statistics

Key Result Areas	2007	2008
Number Served – All Programs Including Trade-Training	1537	1522

Vocational Trade-Training Statistics

Key Result Areas	2005 Outcomes	2006 Outcomes	2007 Outcomes	2008 Outcomes
Enrollment	508	532	540	522
Retention Rate	77%	89%	92%	96%
Graduates	230	258	312	328
Other Positive Completers Certificate of Completion/ Achievement, Accepted Employment, or Returned After Graduation to Upgrade Skills.	10	10	22	22
Withdrew/Did Not Complete	N/A	63	65	38
Employed	75%	84%	83%	82%
Employed in Trade	74%	80%	74%	76%
Employed for at Least 90 days	78%	78%	84%	85%

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

Title VII Independent Living

PROGRAM STATEMENT

State-administered Independent Living Core Funding grants are awarded for the support, development and the expansion of services of private, non-profit Centers for Independent Living (CILs). These grants reduce dependency of people with disabilities and promote personal control over their lives by providing peer support, independent living skills training, advocacy, information and referral, and transition from institutional settings. Grants are awarded in accordance with priorities set in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) developed jointly by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth Rehabilitation Services and Commission for the Blind. The federal grant has a 10 percent match requirement.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Grantees report quarterly on program expenditures and progress toward the identified grant objectives. In FY 2008, IL Core Funding grants were provided to fourteen (14) established and one (1) developing CILs. In 2008, the fifteen CILs provided 65,700 hours of community services; more than 37,300 individuals with disabilities participated in CIL services. For FY 2009, the fifteen CILs are expected to provide about 68,000 hours of community services and more than 37,900 individuals with disabilities are expected to receive services. All CILs must comply with standards established in Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) provides compliance oversight for the ten (10) Centers for Independent Living receiving direct Title VIIC funds, which do not go through MRS. Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth Rehabilitation Services, in collaboration with the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Commission for the Blind provide compliance oversight for those not federally funded.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

Department Of Labor and Economic Growth BUREAU OF MICHIGAN REHABILITATION SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2008

Goal 1: MRS will improve the employment outcomes and self-sufficiency for persons with disabilities in Michigan.

DLEG Goals: Provide excellent customer service.

1.1 MRS will meet or exceed at least five of the seven federally mandated program performance indicators:

Performance Measures	Federal Standards to	MRS Performance
Performance weasures	Meet or Exceed	FY 2008
Number of Employment	The FY 2007 Michigan	
Outcomes	benchmark of 7,681	7,545
Percent Employed	> 55.8	53.5%
Employed Competitively	> 72.6	97.8%
Significant Disability	> 62.4	92.9%
Earnings Ratio	> 0.52	0.57
Self-Support	> 53.0	64.3
Minority Ratio	> 0.8	0.85

Highlight status Green	Strategy MRS exceeded five of the seven federal mandated performance indicators.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

1.2 MRS' Michigan Career & Technical Institute (MCTI) will provide comprehensive vocational services and training to 1,050 persons ith disabilities and sustain a joint placement rate of 85%.

Highlight status Green	Strategy Through the end of September 2008 MCTI served 1,522 students and had 82% placement rates.

1.3 MRS collaborated with the state independent living centers to achieve employment outcomes for 2,401 customers by resolving barriers to employment in 2008. The Independent living Centers serve persons with disabilities independent of MRS. These statistics are below.

Highlight status	Strategy
Green	New database software was implemented in all Michigan Centers for
	Independent Living (CILs) to provide improved quarterly and annual
	reporting of IL/CIL performance. 2008 data indicates more than 37,380
	persons utilized independent living supports from the state's 15 ClLs to
	address employment barriers. This activity resulted in more than 4,026
	employment-related outcomes during the year.

1.4 MRS will collaborate with the Michigan Department of Human Services and Michigan Works Agencies to effectively administer the Jobs Education and Training (JET) agreement to serve eligible Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients with disabilities to achieve employment outcomes consistent with the vocational rehabilitation program. In FY 2008, 2,583 TANF deferred recipients received consultation from MRS regarding employment barriers, and approximately 995 were referred to MRS for services.

Highlight status	Strategy
Green	The implementation of JET (the written agreement, funding, hiring of staff
	and referral from DHS) took longer than anticipated. MRS
	scheduled 3,770 referral appointments and 2,583 persons attended
	the appointment. 995 persons were referred to MRS as a result of
	the consultation. A total of 913 JET persons from both DHS and
	MWA became MRS customers.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

1.5 The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) is an interagency initiative with Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC). MRS and DOC will implement a seamless transition process from DOC correctional facilities to MRS district offices for exiting prisoners with disabilities. This process began in FY 2006 with 15 pilot sites. In FY 2008 this initiative was expanded statewide.

Highlight status Green	Strategy MRS entered into an interagency agreement with MDOC that clarifies and describes the MRS role in MPRI. All correctional facilities are participating. Fourteen districts have completed the initial implementation process; implementation is proceeding slowly in the new offices.
	During FY 2008, 3,922 ex-felon cases were open and 521 were successfully rehabilitated. 285 persons applied for services through MPRI, 250 of whom continue to work with us.

Goal 2: MRS will contribute toward the development of a 21st century workforce, grow Michigan's businesses and entrepreneurship by providing quality acquisition, retention, and small business development services to persons with disabilities.

DLEG Goals: Grow Michigan's economy

Provide rehabilitation and career development resources.

2.1 MRS will provide at least 4,500 acquisition and retention services to at least 2,300 employers.

Highlight status	Strategy
Yellow	MRS provided 3,872 acquisitions and retention services which was less
	than anticipated, however 4,485 employers were served,
	demonstrating more employers know about our services for future
	use. A new reporting system initialized during the fiscal year had a
	positive impact on data accuracy.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

2.2 MRS will assist at least 209 persons with disabilities in evaluating the feasibility of the development of a small business opportunity. In FY 2008, 71 MRS customers will achieve a small business rehabilitated closure.

Highlight status	Strategy
Green	MRS assisted 340 persons with disabilities evaluate the feasibility of the
	development of a small business opportunity. 71 customers have
	achieved a small business rehabilitated closure.

2.3 MRS' Disability Management Program will provide prevention education and ergonomic training for at least 100 Michigan employers. From these employers 425 individual employees will be provided training and/or ergonomic assessments.

Highlight status	Strategy
Green	The Disability Management Program provided disability prevention education and ergonomic training for 108 employers. From these employers, 501 individual employees were provided training and/or
	ergonomic assessments.

Goal 3: MRS will promote equitable distribution of staff, funds and other resources by using a Resource Allocation Formula (RAM) based upon the most recent census figures.

DLEG Goals: Provide excellent customer service.

Provide rehabilitation and career development resources.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

3.1 MRS will ensure that the number of minority customers served and rehabilitated are in direct proportion or exceed the prevalence of disability among minority populations.

Highlight status	Strategy
Green	MRS served 17,262 minority customers in FY 2008, which was 36% of the total customers served. Successful rehabilitations reflect that of the
	7,543 successful closures, 2,088 (28%) were minorities. MRS
	initiatives designed to narrow the gap between "served" and "rehabilitated" customers include cultural competency training for all
	staff, and identification of resources to assist staff meeting the needs
	of minority customers.

3.2 MRS will work with the independent living centers, the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), and the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) to continue the implementation of a prototype for addressing needed CIL funding.

Highlight status	Strategy
Green	Based on recommendations and input from partnership planning meetings conducted during the last several years, the Michigan CIL Prototype was updated for inclusion in the State Plan for Independent Living for FYs 2008-2010. The revised prototype explicitly identifies equity percentages calculated from the prototype projections. Work is also underway to update the wage and salary information upon which the calculations are based. New information is to be reflected in updated projections during FY 2009.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

3.3 MRS will work with the state independent living centers, and the State Independent Living Council (SILC) using 2006 baseline data to improve equity with the vocational rehabilitation funded operation and to increase resources related to the Title VII operations.

Highlight status	Strategy
Green	In collaboration with the Statewide Independent Living Council and the
	independent living centers, a five year plan has been developed to
	reallocate funding received by CILs to bring all 15 Michigan CILs
	within a calculated equity range. Implementation of the plan resulted
	in six CILs being within the defined equity range for FY 2008,
	compared to two within the defined range for FY 2007.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

Challenges to Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)

Resources:

Service Requests:

Medical and psychological sciences have identified new disabilities. Autism and associated disabilities are occurring more frequently. Persons in correctional institutions are frequently diagnosed with emotional, mental and learning disabilities. Increasingly, persons are diagnosed with learning and other cognitive disabilities, especially in families with generational unemployment and poverty. People are living longer and as the population ages more people have age-related disabilities. Veterans are returning from duty with a myriad of physical and emotional disabilities. Michigan's unemployment and budgetary problems have resulted in state and local human service agencies experiencing budgetary shortfalls and reductions and are looking for assistance from new sources.

In 2006 Cornell University reported the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full time in Michigan was 18.1 percent.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) is increasingly recognized as a resource for persons needing employment training and placement services. A significant number of state and local agencies have looked to partner financially and programmatically with MRS in the past few years. More agencies are referring customers to MRS for services, and agencies are also requesting MRS' expertise and knowledge to assist them in their work. Federal rules and regulations prescribe limitations to MRS' role and responsibilities, despite increased requests to expand the bureau mission and activities.

Funds:

While the MRS customer base has grown, bureau staff and customer service budget have not. The MRS federal grant requires match dollars. Match income has not kept pace with the federal grant dollars and the funds acquired from other sources have service restrictions attached.

Staff:

Under the 1992 and 1998 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act, states are must establish procedures to ensure an adequate supply of qualified counselors, assess existing and future personnel and associated training needs.

Fifteen years after passage, state agencies remain highly challenged by the inadequate supply of qualified candidates. Nationally, the yearly graduates from accredited programs account for only 1/3 of the annual open positions. The current projected unmet national need is 1,920. Michigan mirrors this national trend.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) in 2008 had 515 permanent staff, 35.9% age 55 or older. 35.9% of MRS' professional counselors are 55 or older, and 53.4% of MRS managers are 55 and older. MRS staff who are eligible to retire is escalating at an alarming rate at the same time as we are experiencing difficulty finding qualified staff. In several areas of the state the entire professional staff is retirement age. This has been further exacerbated by the hiring freeze put in place to deal with the state's fiscal crisis.

MRS has restructured its service delivery practices and has reassigned specific case management functions traditionally performed by VR counselors to others, to the degree permitted by federal rules and regulations. MRS is rapidly running out of options for meeting the needs of customers.

National trends show that when caseload sizes for counselors increase due to inadequate availability of qualified counselors, waiting lists develop and the VR program is required to implement an *Order of Selection*.

Order of Selection:

When a public vocational rehabilitation program can no longer to provide timely services by qualified counselors to all persons statewide who meet federal eligibility requirements regardless of disability or source of referral, it is required by federal regulations to declare an *Order of Selection*.

Order of Selection requires customers be served by severity of disability first, and then in the order they enter the system. Customers are put on statewide waiting lists for services, some of whom are never served. MRS has worked hard to avoid an *Order of Selection* because many persons with disabilities can be served quickly and at very reasonable cost, returning to the work force. The administrative cost to maintain customer lists and prioritize customers is very expensive and the dollars can be put to better use by providing services to all persons with disabilities including persons who are eligible for services without the most significant disabilities. MRS and the Michigan Rehabilitation Council (MRC) project many Michigan citizens would not be served if Michigan was required to implement an *Order of Selection*. This would further increase Michigan's unemployment rate and the demand on other service systems such as DHS, DOC, DCH, MWA, etc.

The challenge to maintain credentialed staff, obtain required match for federal grants, and have funds to provide services to the growing number of persons eligible for and seeking our services requires significant effort. MRS is monitoring its ability to meet these needs on a quarterly basis, to continue to prevent implementation of *Order of Selection*.

DEPARTMENT: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: MI Rehabilitation Services

Statewide Access to Independent Living Services:

The pace of development and number of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) has been limited by the availability of state and federal operating funds. Since the 1970s, efforts to develop a statewide CIL network have focused on grassroots growth. Fifteen Centers for Independent Living now have approximately 17% of the funding and 30% of the staff necessary for a state-wide full-functioning service delivery system. 19% of Michigan's residents needing independent living supports are in areas currently served, 48% in areas significantly underserved, and 33% in areas without any access.

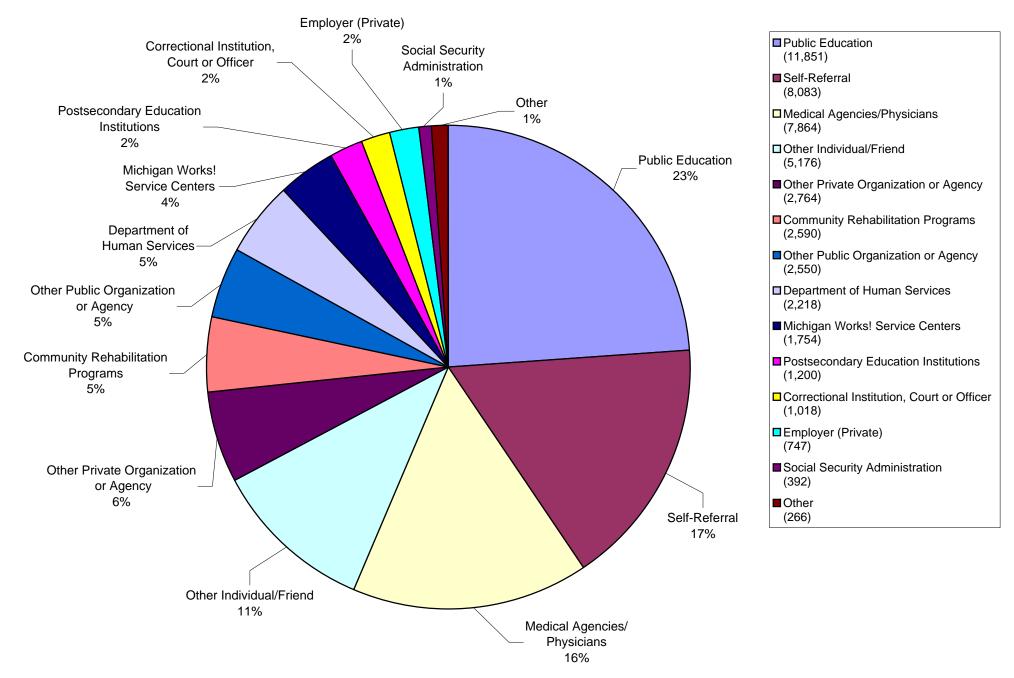
The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) and the CILs continue to address the challenges of service delivery across the state. In recent years, a Michigan CIL Prototype has been developed as a planning and equity template for continuing network development. All entities continue to promote and work toward the implementation of the Michigan CIL Prototype.

Centers for Independent Living Funding Equity

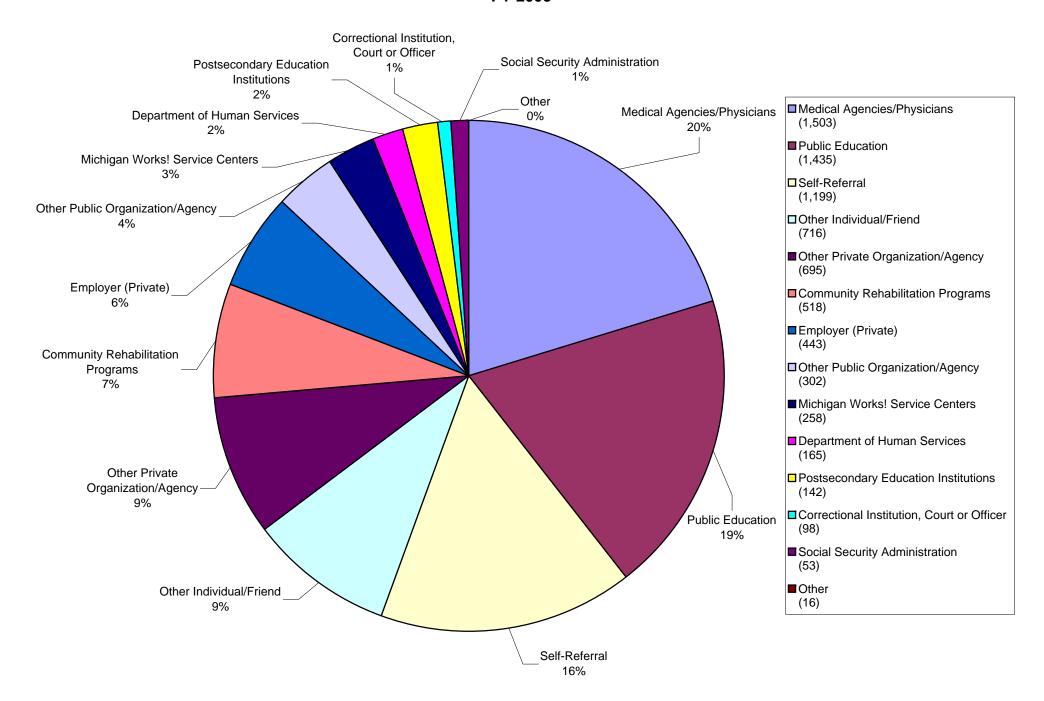
CILs have grown and developed since the 1970s, primarily through grassroots. Significant areas of the state do not have independent living support services. Although new CILs have begun and are making progress in meeting federal standards for funding, no new or additional state or federal funds are available. Issues associated with the distribution of funds have been raised. CIL grants were originally based upon entrepreneurial program development at the community level and did not demonstrate nor factor any level of statewide equity.

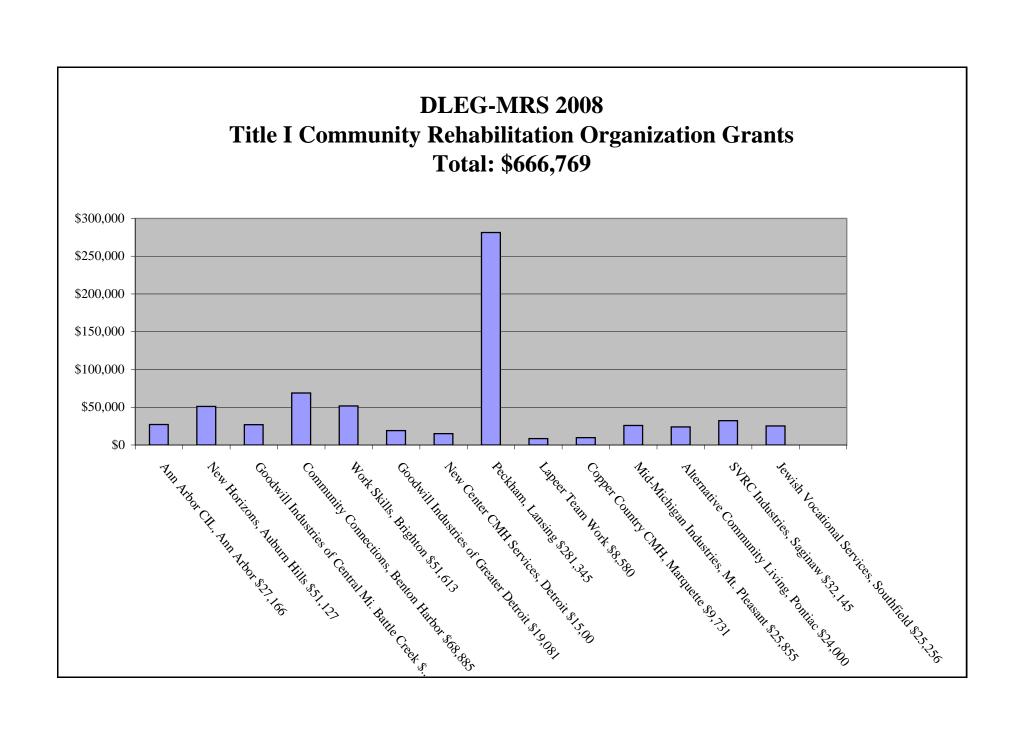
MRS has worked with the SILC and the CILs during the last few years to develop and begin implementation of a five-year plan of funding reallocations from one fund source (Title 1) to bring all CILs within a defined equity range. FY 2008 – the second year of the five-year plan -- reflects major progress in moving toward this target, with six CILs within the defined equity range, compared to two for FY 2007. Efforts for equity across all fund sources have primarily focused on generation of increased revenues including GF/GP funds.

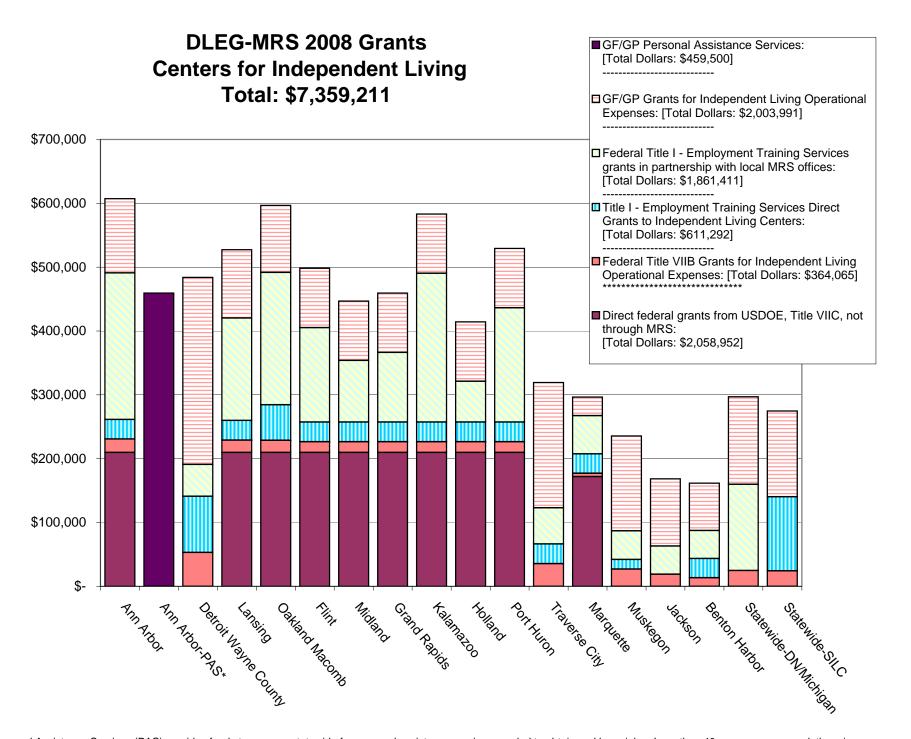
MRS Referral Sources (48,473 Total Customers) FY 2008



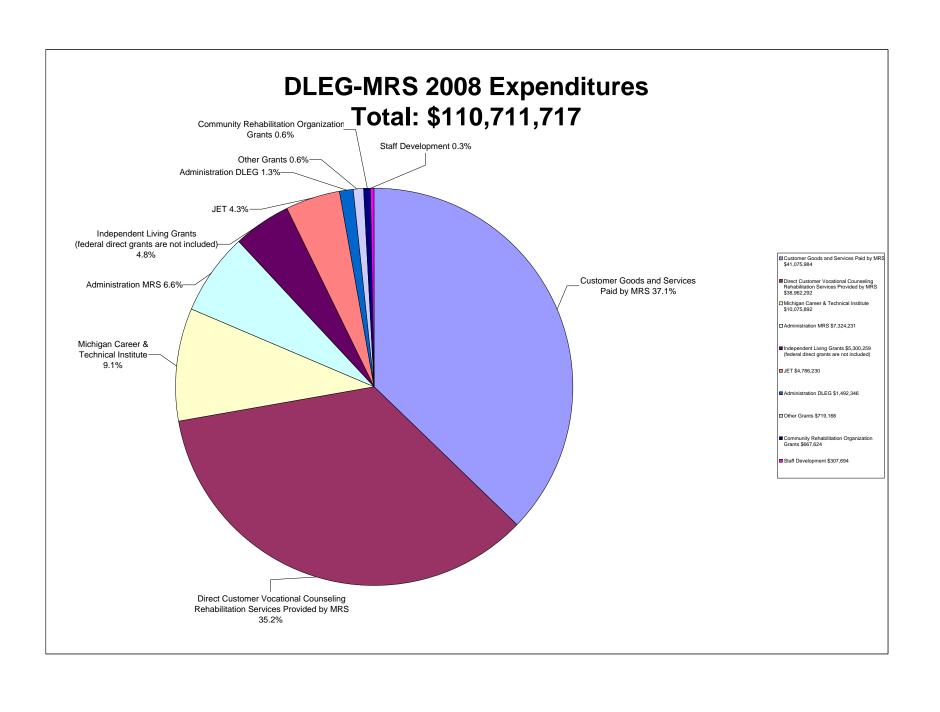
Referral Sources for Persons with Employment Outcomes (7,543 Customers) FY 2008



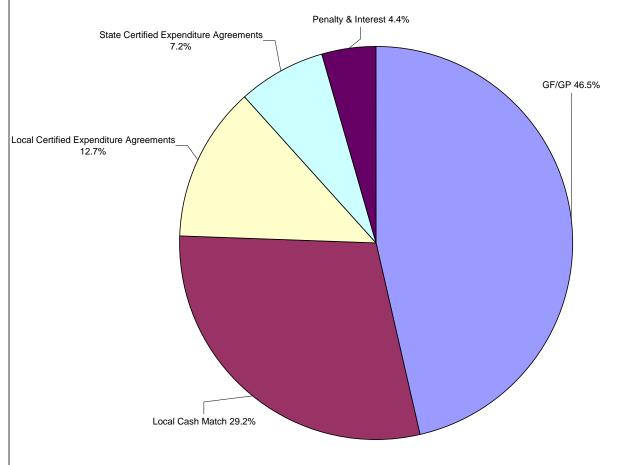




^{*} Personal Assistance Services (PAS) provides funds to persons statewide for personal assistance services needed to obtain and keep jobs. Less than 40 persons are served, there is a waiting list.









■ Local Cash Match \$6,577,979

Local Certified Expenditure Agreements \$2,860,757

State Certified Expenditure Agreements: \$1,610,612

(1) Commission on Disability Concerns (2) Bureau of Workforce Programs, Employment Services Assistance

■ Penalty & Interest \$1,000,000

